

**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
MEETING NOTES
September 20, 2001
CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM
HOUSE
PORTLAND, OREGON**

TMT Internet Homepage: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/index.html>

DRAFT

FACILITATOR'S NOTES

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

Idaho Power responded to TMT's 9/19/01 request to keep flows at 9 kcfs over the weekend to help with the low flows at LGR and LGS. Because of its interest in assisting returning adult salmon to the Snake River, IPC expressed willingness to work with BPA to provide a water neutral/energy returned operation. Roger Fuhrman, on behalf of IPC, expressed the company's willingness to look for a short term agreement and resolution to the low flow problem regardless of agreement on a long term agreement.

BPA's Robyn MacKay responded that they had reviewed the current water situation and, in light of last evening's zero flow for 4 hours, believe they will be okay this weekend without assistance from IPC. BPA noted appreciation for IPC's offer and expressed some willingness to work with IPC in the event that such a swap is necessary in the weeks to come.

TMT members urged that the discussions between IPC and BPA for a short term fix take a high priority. Especially in light of the contingency plan suggested by BPA. This contingency is: if there are unforeseen circumstances that lead to lower flows, BPA will ask the COE to go to another 4-hour zero-flow operation on Sunday. CRITFC, on behalf of its member tribes, expressed opposition to any zero flow operations at LGR and LGS projects. Christine Mallette, on behalf of Oregon and the other salmon managers, suggested that the larger picture of operations in the Lower Snake will require a more comprehensive review over time. In the meantime, a short term agreement to help with this immediate situation should be pursued. She urged BPA and IPC to initiate a dialogue immediately to be ready for any "unforeseen circumstances". IPC responded that they are willing to do this and they need BPA to initiate the discussions.

ACTION: Action Agencies will continue to operate the projects at minimums flows to keep generators spinning and minimum operating pools to allow for navigation. In the event of unforeseen circumstances they may need to go to a 4-hour zero-flow operation. To avoid this, BPA and IPC will pursue further discussion of a short term agreement that would utilize Hells Canyon water to assist with storage and flow needs at LGR.

Next TMT meeting: October 3

I. Greeting and Introductions

The September 20 Technical Management Team conference call, held at the Customs House in Portland, Oregon, was chaired by Cindy Henriksen of the Corps and facilitated by Donna Silverberg. The following is a distillation, not a verbatim transcript, of items discussed at the meeting and actions taken. Anyone with questions or comments about these minutes should call Henriksen at 503/808-3945.

Silverberg welcomed everyone to the meeting, then led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

2. Lower Snake Operations.

The purpose of this call is to follow up on the discussion of Lower Snake operations at yesterday's TMT meeting, Silverberg said. Specifically, we were waiting for a response from Idaho Power to the TMT's request that IPC maintain 9 Kcfs outflow from Hells Canyon over the next several weekends, she said.

Roger Fuhrman said he has sent out an email to the TMT membership laying out IPC's response to this request; the gist is that IPC is willing to provide 9 Kcfs average outflow from Hells Canyon over the next two or three weekends as long as IPC can maintain the financial and operational flexibility it would enjoy if this request was not implemented. In other words, said Fuhrman, if BPA is willing to make us whole for the energy loss associated with this request, IPC is willing to implement the requested action.

Fuhrman read through his email (please refer to this document for the full text of Fuhrman's remarks). The bottom line is that IPC is willing to help, he said, but we need a storage agreement with BPA so that the energy block can be called upon during the following week, making us essentially water-neutral.

Robyn MacKay said she and Scott Bettin have been evaluating the hydrological outlook for this weekend; while we appreciate IPC's willingness to work with us, it doesn't look like we'll need their help at least over the coming weekend, she said. We should be able to maintain the necessary minimum flow level at Lower Granite (11.5 Kcfs) over the coming weekend without additional flow from Hells Canyon, she said.

It may be necessary to go to zero nighttime flow for a few hours Sunday night, MacKay said; if we can get agreement on that contingency plan, that would allow us to take action without coordinating with everyone first. In response to a request, Henriksen said she will contact Kyle Martin at home if the zero nighttime flow operation becomes necessary. Again, said Henriksen, we don't think we'll need that contingency operation, although flows are going to be tight, if we are to maintain minimum project flow and stay above MOP for navigation purposes. .

Why is a zero nighttime flow operation preferable to coordinating with IPC for an energy exchange? Christine Mallette asked. Because there is no way to get a contract in

place in time, and no guarantee that we will even be able to reach agreement on such a contract, MacKay replied. In response to another question from Mallette, MacKay said BPA can certainly pursue such an agreement with Idaho Power for next weekend.

There was general agreement that a long-term agreement between BPA and IPC covering these kinds of contingencies in the Lower Snake is needed; MacKay noted that such an agreement is already being explored. We are trying, she said, but I wouldn't hold out a lot of hope that those discussions will bear fruit. Fuhrman said IPC is very interested in any short-term or long-term agreements that can be worked out.

It sounds, then, as though BPA and the Corps feel they can maintain the project minimums and stay above MOP this weekend without assistance from Idaho Power, said Silverberg; if there is a problem, the default is to go to zero nighttime flow at the Lower Snake projects for a few hours Sunday night. I'm also hearing that a long-term agreement is a priority for the TMT, and that Idaho Power is very interested in pursuing a short-term agreement as well, she said. Mallette encouraged BPA to initiate this dialogue immediately, with the goal of reaching a short-term agreement prior to next weekend. CRITFC would like the record to reflect that they oppose zero nighttime flow at Lower Granite, Martin said.

To be clear, said Henriksen, this flow problem could surface at any time, even during the week, when flows are this tight – while it is most likely to occur on weekends, as Idaho Power's Hells Canyon complex follows load, it could occur at any time as long as Lower Snake flows are this low.

The call adjourned with the understanding that there is no plan to initiate a zero nighttime flow operation on Thursday or Friday, but that while flow remains this low, there may be a need to initiate the zero nighttime operation at any time until fall natural flow begin to increase.

TMT MEETING PARTICIPANTS
September 20, 2001

| Name | Affiliation |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| John Bowling | IPC |
| Rick Eichstaedt | Nez Perce |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Margaret Filardo | FPC |
| Roger Fuhrman | IPC |
| Greg Haller | Nez Perce |
| Cindy Henriksen | COE |
| Robyn MacKay | BPA |
| Christine Mallette | ODFW |
| Kyle Martin | CRITFC |
| Tony Norris | USBR |
| Chris Ross | NMFS |
| Shane Scott | WDFW |
| Donna Silverberg | Facilitation Team |
| Dave Statler | Nez Perce |
| Paul Wagner | NMFS |
| Dave Wills | USFWS |